

Clydeside Hunt Saboteurs Association

ADVICE FOR NEW HUNT SABOTEURS.

The following notes have been drawn up as requested at a Hunt Saboteurs meeting to offer advice to new members of what to do and what not to do when out sabotaging a hunt. These are in no way rules - merely guidelines to give people an idea of what is expected of them.

It does not go into the tactics of how to sabotage a hunt effectively, these are best learnt on the day by watching what is going on and copying experienced saboteurs. The C.H.S.A. also holds tactics meetings for new members to improve their sabotage skills - you can get details from group members.

When out sabotaging a hunt;

DO

- 1) Wear suitable clothing, drab coloured, warm, tough, and waterproof if you don't like getting wet.
- 2) Listen to experienced saboteurs advice.
- 3) Be prepared to be out in bad weather conditions.
- 4) Bring along any or all of the following items: hunting horn, air horn, whistle, maps (O.S. Landranger sheets 63 & 64) antimate spray, camera (preferably black and white film).
- 5) Stay with a group of people, don't wander off on your own.
- 6) Bring a packed lunch, you will probably be out all day.
- 7) Offer suggestions, and ask questions if there is anything you are not sure about.
- 8) Come to our monthly meetings - details available at the hunt.

DON'T

- 1) Offer violence to hunt members or supporters.
- 2) Spray antimate on hounds, horses or people.
- 3) Do anything that might harm hounds or horses.
- 4) Be afraid to try the calls.
- 5) Call hounds onto main roads, railways or into any area where they may get injured.
- 6) Run in among the horses unless you are with a large group of people.

SABOTAGING A FOXHUNT - BASIC TACTICS

1) CLEARING WOODS

Form line across wood and move forward together making as much noise as possible ie: blow horns, whistles, air horns, clap, shout, football rattles, bangers etc.

Look out for foxes earths and unblock if necessary.

Work away from meet and/or send foxes in a direction the hunt will not want to go ie: towards residential area, main road/ railway, river.

2) PULLING HOUNDS AWAY FROM A DRAW

When the hounds are sent into a wood, gorse patch etc to sniff around and find a fox, sabs usually try to call them back out using horn and voice calls. We imitate the calls the huntsman would make if a fox had left the wood and he was calling the hounds onto the scent.

Therefore sabs position themselves outside the wood, away from the huntsman and riders and then once the hounds are spread out and beyond the huntsmans immediate control start using calls. A single holla (pronounced holler - a long scream like a red indian war cry) will raise the hounds heads and then a single horn blower using fast notes (doubling) combined with other sabs voice calls should bring the hounds out. Voice calls should be high pitched, excited and encouraging eg; hike forrad, hike to horn, hup hounds, hup hup forrad etc. The actual words used are not as important as the tone of the voice. The calls should be interspersed with whoops and shouts. If hounds come towards sabs, move away as fast as possible taking the hounds away from the huntsman. Avoid going towards main roads, railways or any other place where hounds could be at risk of being injured.

3) STOPPING HOUNDS ON A SCENT

If the hounds do flush out a fox or pick up a scent they will start to bay and yelp in a loud chorus. This noise plus the probable excitement among hunt members should alert sabs. They should get ahead of hounds if possible, or if not then to one side or among them in a wood. Horn and voice calls should be used plus imitation whip-cracks.

Horn calls should be slow and long, single notes or longer mournful calls. Voice calls should be gruff, harsh and aggressive, as if chastising the hounds, ie; ware riot, leave it, ware hound, get on back to him, etc. This should be interspersed with whip-crack sounds, banging two blocks of wood together, using a home made whip, or clapping.

4) PREVENTING A DIG-OUT

When a fox takes refuge underground terriermen will be called in to dig it out using terriers to locate the fox and then spades to dig with. The only way sabs can prevent this is to reach the scene as quickly as possible, and refuse to move until the hunt pack up and move on. The more sabs that are present, the better the chance of success.

5) USE OF ANTIMATE

If you have antimite spray use it selectively, when clearing woods use around any earths that you find. At any time during the hunt if you see a fox running use it to cover its scent. Also use in front of hounds that are running on a scent.

SABOTAGING A FOXHUNT - FURTHER TACTICS1) BEFORE THE MEET

Look at the O.S. map and try to decide where the hunt is most likely to go, (previous experience of the meet will help as well). This will enable you to position yourselves well, hopefully ahead of the hunt and not trailing behind them. It is much easier to call hounds successfully from the front, and it is essential if you want to stop hounds when they are on a scent, as you can form a physical barrier in front of them. Know where S.R.C. owned land is (country parks and water authority) and then be ready with a camera if the hunt head towards such land so that we have evidence of any trespass that occurs.

2) AT THE MEET

If you have a camera take 'mug-shots' of hunt members and supporters. If we can build up a file of faces then it may help sabs who are assaulted, have vehicles damaged etc. to identify the person involved. Listen to the huntsman/whip whenever you are near them and try to pick up some of the hounds names.

3) CALLING HOUNDS AWAY FROM A DRAW

Groups should be separated, some near the covert and others further away. Try to learn horn calls and voice calls and then use them effectively - just blowing single notes on the horn and yelling "come away" is not the most effective way to gain control of the pack. Horn calls should be fast and controlled ie; gone away, doubling. Only one person should be blowing a horn, remember we are trying to mimic the huntsman. Similarly, voice calls should be organised, not just a hubbub of 5 or 6 people all shouting different things at the same time. Shout one at a time, using the same type of calls, high pitched, excited etc. (see other tactics sheet).

Hopefully, using these tactics, the hounds should come out of the covert and run up towards the sabs. As soon as the hunt realises what has happened they will send riders up to stop the hounds and send them back to the huntsman, so it is important to keep the hounds running fast. Therefore when they reach the first group, these sabs should stop calling and the second group that are farther away take up the role of 'huntsman' and start using horn and voice calls. The first group then takes on the role of the 'whipper-in', sending hounds on to the 'huntsman' group, encouraging the hounds to run on past themselves.

If the draw is near a road (not a busy one) then the second group can be replaced by sabs on bikes or in a van so that hounds can be taken further away from the huntsman.

When pulling hounds in this way it is advantageous to choose a direction which has some sort of barrier that will stop the riders being able to catch up with the hounds. So keep an eye out for barbed wire fences with no gate or jump in them, a field that riders are not allowed in, (marked by a red rectangle on a post inside gates and jumps - there are lots at the Eglinton), a river that is difficult to cross etc. If the two groups are positioned one each side of the barrier then it does not matter if sabs can't get across quickly either, the hounds will find a way across almost anything if they are excited enough.

4) STOPPING THE DRAW

If sabs are near enough when the huntsman puts his hounds into a covert then tactics can be used to actually stop the hounds from spreading through the covert, using two groups again. One group stay as close to the hunt as possible (without putting themselves at risk from the riders) and do gathering calls. Short notes on the horn played in twos or threes. Voice calls mournful and drawn out, ie; hup hup hounds, come away back then, hounds, etc. The other group go into the covert with the hounds and as soon as the huntsman encourages them to spread out use voice calls and whip crack sounds to put them back to him. Voice calls should be harsh, ie; Get away on back to him, way on back, get back there. This has been used effectively several times and results in the huntsman standing surrounded by his pack unable to cast them.

5) USE OF ANTIMATE

Antimite should be something that all sabs have with them - it is not very often needed, but when the hounds are on the scent of a fox it can be crucial in stopping them. Voice calls and whip cracks may distract them, but if they lose the scent due to antimite this will cause them to check, giving the sabs a much better chance to call them away from the fox. If the hounds do go after a fox then sabs need to be in front of them, the best way is usually to return to a vehicle if one is nearby, and drive round in front of them. If you haven't seen the fox keep an eye on the supporters as they will holla and point for the huntsman to show him which way it has gone. Maps are important again, so that the driver can be directed to a road that will intersect the direction the fox has taken.

If the fox has been seen, eg; crossing a road, antimite should be sprayed not only across where the fox ran, but as far as possible along the line it took in both directions. This will then take the hounds much longer to pick up the scent again. Remember that hunt supporters know what antimite is for so be discreet if they are about.

Fox's scent is not actually strongest on the ground but an inch or two above, hanging in the air. Therefore the best way to disguise it is to spray antimite from some sort of spray gun (like the sort gardeners use) or a non-aerosol pump action spray (lots of hairsprays, gels and deodorants are now sold in these).

Antimite can be made with a small drop of citronella oil (available from chemists) and water. As the oil floats on the water it is worth adding some biodegradable washing up liquid as well so that it mixes better. Despite the fact that it is a fairly harmless substance it should never be sprayed in hounds faces or on their noses as it is irritant.

CLYDESDALE HUNT SABOTEURS.
December 1989.